

DODDERHILL BUILDING
RECORDING
Old Cottage, Sharpway Gate,
Dodderhill, Worcestershire

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Worcestershire County Council

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
Project P2838
Report 1481
WSM 35951

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Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological buildings recording project was undertaken at Old Cottage, Sharpway Gate, in the parish of Dodderhill, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9527 2654). It was undertaken on behalf of the Dodderhill Research Group. The project aimed to establish the character and history of the building.

Old Cottage is a small three bay timber-framed house built in the late 17th century. It was originally thatched and was built as a single structure that was later divided into three separate dwellings. Extensions were added onto the building in the 1830s, 1920s and 1980s and a washhouse was constructed to the rear of the building in the 1890s.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

Building recording was undertaken at Old Cottage, (NGR SO 9527 2654), Sharpway Gate, in the parish of Dodderhill, Worcestershire (Fig 1), on behalf of the Dodderhill Research Group.

1.1 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 2001) and *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006).

1.2 Aims

The aims of the recording were to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of the building.

2. Historical context

Old Cottage is situated in the far east of the parish of Dodderhill at Sharpway Gate (Fig 1). The boundary of the parish runs along the front of the house, leaving the front garden within Stoke Prior parish. Old Cottage is recorded on the Historic Environment Record of the sites and monuments of Worcestershire. It has been accorded the number WSM 9936. This record states that the building is a 'late 17th Century house, 19th and 20th century alterations. Timber framed with brick infill'. The building is also grade II listed and is described in the listing text as follows:

House. Late C17 with mid-C19 and C20 alterations. Timber-frame with painted brick infill, machine tile roof. Three framed bays aligned east/west, and a brick bay to west end, chimney stack north of central bay of timber part. Two storeys, irregular fenestration: three windows: 3-lights to left hand two, 2-lights to other, C19; ground floor: five windows, mostly C20 casements, to left a square bay; roughly central large lean-to porch, C20; glazed door to right. Framing: three square panels high, straight angle braces (DoE 1985, SO 96 NE 7/23).

There are a number of other records relating to the area around Old Cottage on the Historic Environment Record. Of these WSM 31151 is of the most interest. This is an Anglo Saxon track way that was mentioned in the Stoke Prior pre-conquest Charter as a boundary. This follows the route of the current parish boundary and suggests that the Saxon boundary has continued in use to the present day as an administrative boundary.

'The house [may have been] built as 1 dwelling by William Nash sometime in the 1670's. The Nash's were husbandmen/yeoman farmers collectively owning lots of land on both sides of Astwood Lane all the way up to Sharpway Gate as well as tenancing and then owning Causeway Meadows Farm and farming parts of Pipers Hill too' (pers comm Cheryl Stewart).

The tithe map and award for Dodderhill dating to 1845 also shows Old Cottage. It stands in a plot of ground described as 'Cottage, Barn and Garden'. It was owned by the Reverend James Volant Vashon and was tenanted to John Hooper and others. This suggests that the cottage has been divided up, or was originally more than one cottage. Estate agent details of 1920 also show that the cottage was at this time occupied as three dwellings.

3. Results

Old Cottage was recorded in April 2006 and this survey has allowed a basic chronology to be produced for the site.

3.1 **Structural analysis**

The results of the structural analysis are presented below and can be seen on Figure 2.

3.1.1 **Phase 1 – 17th century**

In the late 17th century, a small property was constructed at Sharpway Gate (Fig 3). This building was timber framed, three bays long and roofed with thatch. It is not sure whether the building was constructed as one or three residences. Its location right on the parish boundary and adjacent to Dodderhill Common suggests that it was built at the edge of the Common and possibly encroached onto common land.

3.1.2 **Phase 2 – 1830s**

Very little change took place on the building, but in the 1830s an extension was built against the west gable of the structure (Fig 4). This brick-built structure may have been used as a washhouse for the occupiers of the house. It is certain that it had a function requiring a fireplace as a chimney was built integrally to the extension (Fig 5).

Also at this time two fireplaces were added into the building. The main one was a large inglenook fireplace (Fig 6). It was constructed against the rear of the 17th century building and was used to heat the main ground floor room. A small fireplace (Fig 7) was also added into the east room of the ground floor and may have had an opening at first level as well as the ground floor.

3.1.3 **Phase 3 – 1890s**

In the 1890s an extension was constructed to the rear of the house (Fig 8). This brick building was a small structure and was most likely a communal washhouse. There is a building of this function mentioned in sale particulars of 1920 (Fig 9). Also at the time of the sale particulars the building was being used as three cottages and had no extensions on its frontage. The photograph attached to the particulars (Fig 10) gives a good idea of how the cottage may have looked at the end of the 19th century.

3.1.4 **Phase 4 – 1920s-1930s**

Following the sale of the building in 1920, it appears to have been turned into a single dwelling and had a sunroom extension and a bay window added to its front elevation. A photograph of 1934 (Fig 11) shows the cottage with these additions to its frontage.

3.1.5 **Phase 5 – 1980s**

In the 1980s the building was still thatched (Fig 12), but following its sale to the current owners the thatch was removed and the roof was tiled instead (Geoff Pearson pers comm). Also in the 1980s, a number of changes took place on the building. An extension was added to the west gable of the cottage (Fig 13). This caused the removal of the rear wall of the 1830s (Phase 2) extension to allow access into the new structure.

The 1890s washhouse and the cottage were joined together by a hall and entranceway (Fig 14) that enclosed the inglenook chimneystack on the ground floor (Fig 15). The washhouse was also divided into a bathroom, toilet and cupboards. A large extension to the rear (south) of this structure (Fig 16) was also built at this time. However, it is also possible that this extension was originally built in the 1890s, like the washhouse. The cleaning of the bricks in this phase, and subsequent rebuilding of collapsed sections of the walls, has removed any possible evidence of this earlier date.

4. **Synthesis**

In the late 17th century a small three bay cottage was constructed on the boundary of Dodderhill and Stoke Prior parishes. It was probably originally built as a single structure that was later divided into three separate two-up and two-down dwellings. Very little has change has occurred to the original 17th century building. The only changes appear to be extensions added to the original structure in the 19th and 20th centuries and simple internal divisions.

5. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

Building recording was undertaken on behalf of the Dodderhill Research Group at Old Cottage, Sharpway Gate, Dodderhill, Worcestershire (NGR ref SO 9527 2654; SMR ref WSM 35951). Old Cottage is a small three bay timber-framed house built in the late 17th century. It was originally thatched and was built as a single structure that was later divided into three separate dwellings. Extensions were added onto the building in the 1830s, 1920s and 1980s and a washhouse was constructed to the rear of the building in the 1890s.

6. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 5 Photographic records AS3
- 171 Digital photographs
- 1 Building record forms AS43a
- 1 Computer disk

7. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project: Geoff and Sue Pearson for allowing access to their home and Cheryl Stewart for providing historical information.

8. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Shona Robson-Glyde. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hust. Fieldwork was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde and illustration by Shona Robson-Glyde.

9. **Bibliography**

DoE, 1985 *List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest: District of Wychavon*, Department of the Environment

EH, 2006 *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage

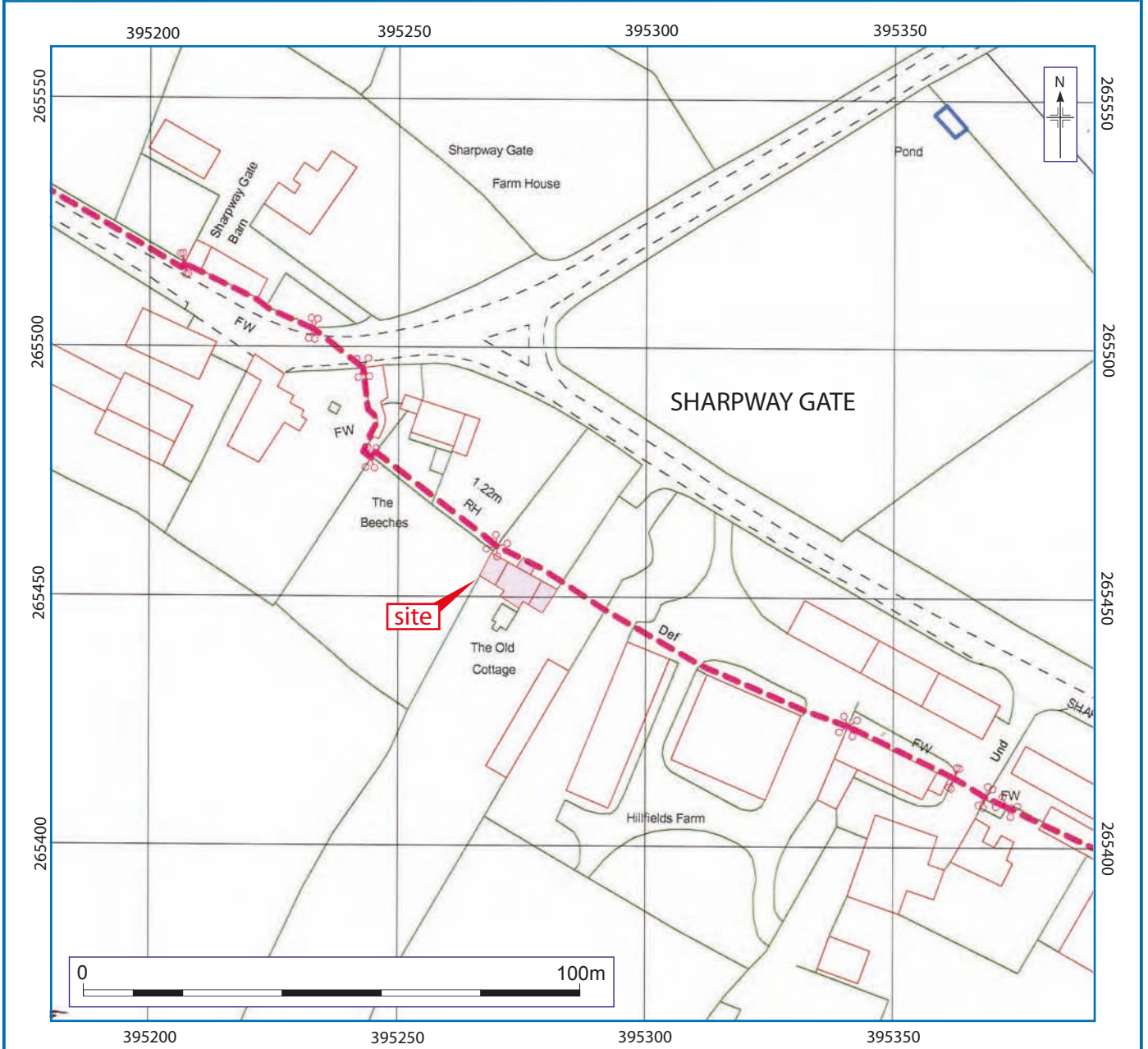
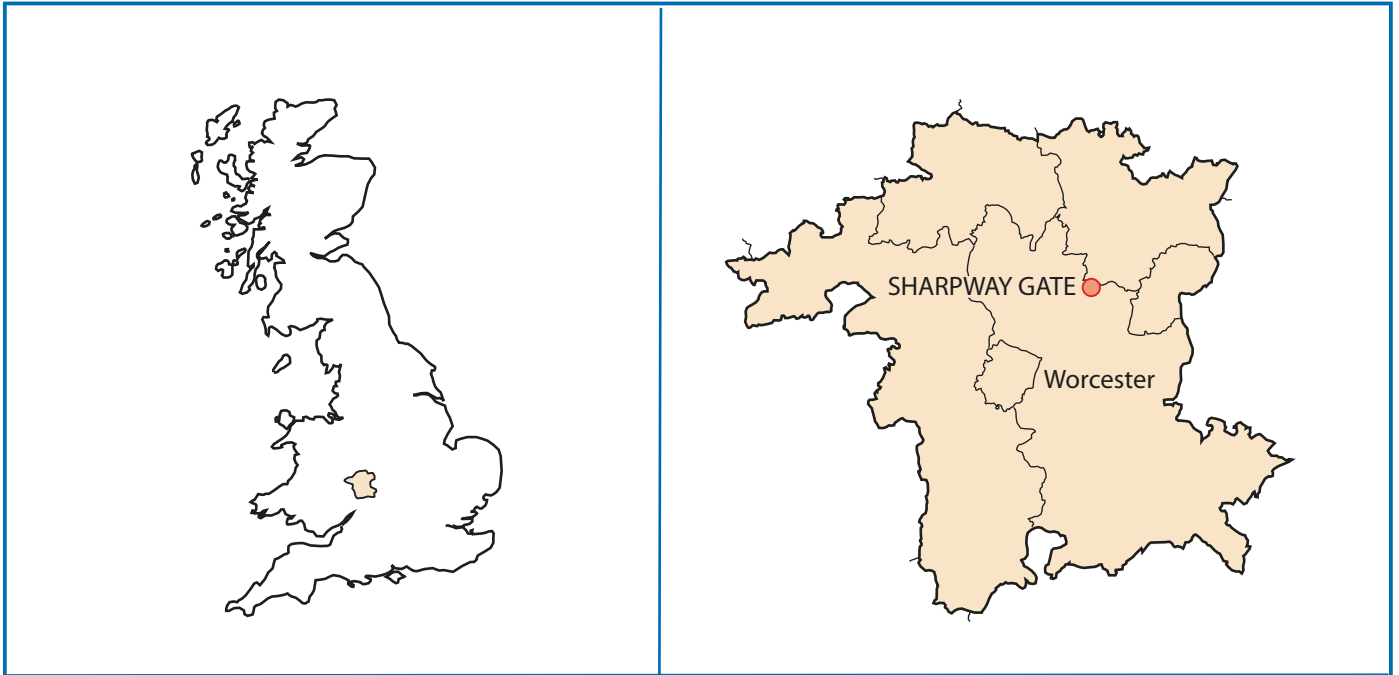
IFA, 2001 *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

10. **Abbreviations**

HER Historic Environment Record.

WSM Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record.

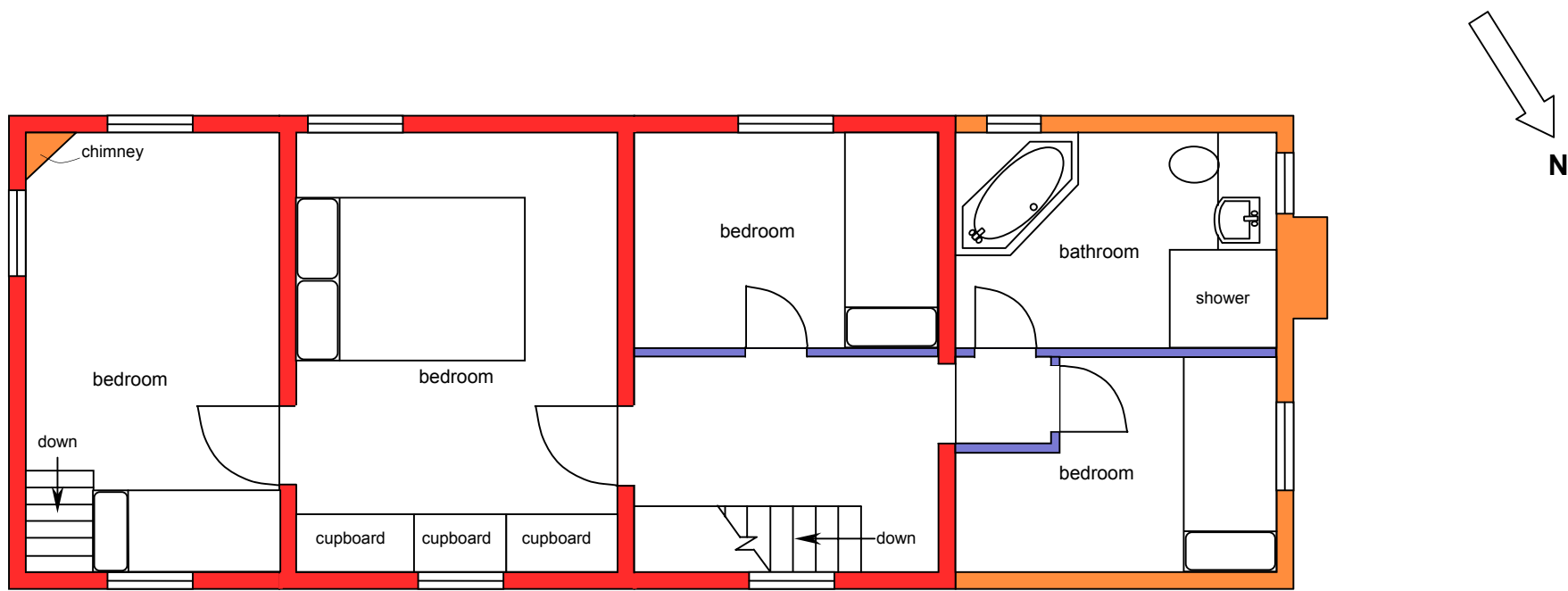
11. **Appendix 1 Figures**



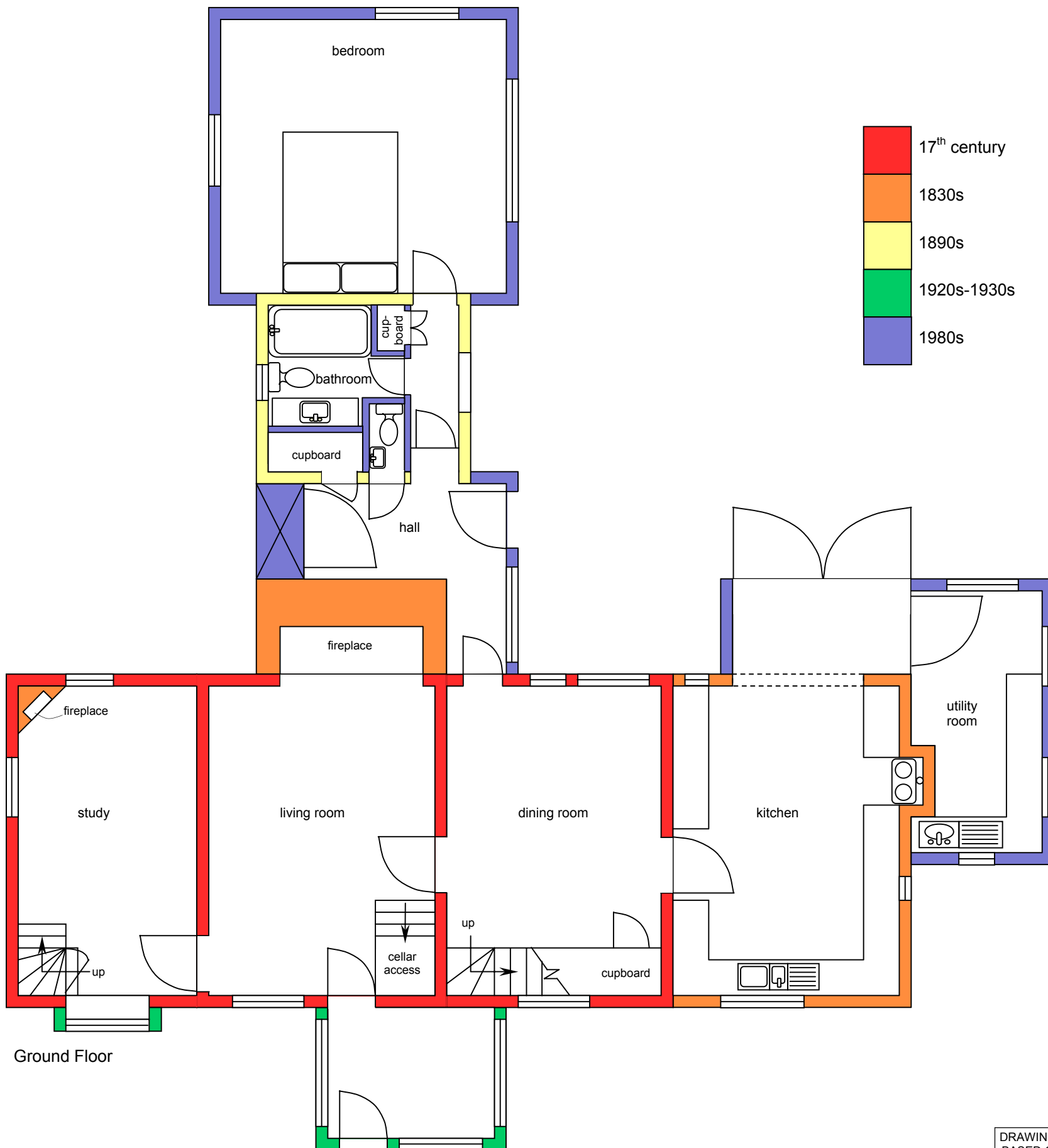
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Location of the site.

Figure 1



First Floor



Ground Floor

- 17th century
- 1830s
- 1890s
- 1920s-1930s
- 1980s

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE.
BASED ON SKETCH PLAN
PRODUCED ON SITE.

Ground and first floor plans of Old Cottage

Figure 2



Figure 3: Three bay timber framed 17th century cottage



Figure 4: 1830s extension to cottage



Fig 5: 1830s extension from the west showing the integral chimney



Figure 6: 1830s inglenook fireplace in main ground floor room of cottage



Figure 7: Small fireplace on ground floor of cottage



Figure 8: 1890s washhouse extension

LOT 41.
(Coloured Yellow on Plan.)

A PICTURESQUE FREEHOLD PROPERTY OF

**Three typical
Worcestershire black and white Cottages,**

with thatched roofs, situate at SHARPWAY GATE, with very long Gardens, near to Dodderhill Common.

Each Cottage contains two rooms up and two down, with Wash-house used in common, with sink, copper, and baking oven. There are also wooden and tiled Coal Sheds, and Pigsties. Water is obtained from a Well.

Part No. 629 on Sale Plan, Parish of Stoke Prior, and No. 493, [and part 483, Parish of Dodderhill. Area, 1.204 Acre, or

1a. 0r. 32p. or thereabouts.

Let, together with Astwood Farm, to Mr. J. P. Wilson, on an annual Ladyday tenancy, the rent apportioned in respect of this Lot being

£12 0s. 0d. per annum.

Tithe rent charge (apportioned value), 8d. per annum, payable to the Vicar of Dodderhill.
Amount of Timber Valuation, £9 3s. 9d.

Figure 9: Sale particulars of 1920 detailing washhouse



Figure 10: Photograph from 1920 sale particulars



Figure 11: 1934 photograph showing cottage with sunroom and bay window extensions



Figure 12: Photograph from 1980s showing thatch roof still on cottage



Figure 13: 1980s extension to west gable of cottage



Figure 14: 1980s extension joining cottage to washhouse



Figure 15: elevation of inglenook chimneystack enclosed by 1980s extension



Figure 16: 1980s extension to rear of washhouse